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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer.

Let us pray.

Lord God, eternal and infinite, at the beginning of this new week, we give You thanks for the grace You bestow upon us daily. Thank You for each morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything Your goodness brings.

Please continue to guide our judgment and actions so that we may fulfill Your will. Help us when we are blind so that we may see the path You have set before us. Remind our leaders to remember those in need.

Continue to watch over those who serve and protect our country. Lord, give wisdom to our Senators as they guide us down the challenging road into the future.

And, Lord, we ask You to comfort Senator NORMAN COLEMAN as he mourns his father's death.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 30, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. The time will be equally controlled between the two leaders. At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 796, with the time until 5:30 to be equally divided and controlled between Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY or their designees.

At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed. If cloture is invoked, we can proceed to this very important legislation quickly.

For all Members of the Senate, last week we accomplished a lot. Here are the "must dos" this week: SCHIP and lobbying and ethics reform. There are other things we would like to do and, if we can get consent, we will do them.

The competitiveness conference report is completed. I hope we can do that by unanimous consent. The WRDA bill is completed, and we hope to be able to do that by unanimous consent. We also, again, later today, will offer a unanimous consent request to do the Freedom of Information Act improvements. This is an extremely important

piece of legislation. It has bipartisan support and Senators LEAHY and CORNYN are the sponsors. I hope we can complete this before we leave. The Republicans raised an objection last week when we raised this by unanimous consent. I hope that problem is now taken care of.

So that is what we have to do. I will repeat, we must complete SCHIP and lobbying and ethics reform, and the other matters would be icing on the cake if we can do them.

### IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week was a very productive week for the Senate and the American people. With Democrats and Republicans working together, the Senate was able to pass the conference report implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Also, we passed the Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security appropriations bill and the Higher Education Reauthorization Act.

This week, we will turn our attention to important domestic initiatives, including reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program and passing the ethics conference report to strengthen the integrity of our Government. That legislation is completed. The House will pass it tomorrow. Without any qualification or reservation, it is the most significant lobbying and ethics reform in the history of our country. I hope we can do this piece of legislation without a lot of turmoil. I hope that people understand how important it is to the American people.

As we focus on issues that will lead to a better and brighter future for millions of Americans, two new reports illustrate that neither the present nor the future seem particularly bright for the Iraqis and Iraq itself, where our brave troops are fighting in this intractable civil war.

One report that came down this morning is from a humanitarian organization. The other is from President

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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